

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Sunday, March 16, 2025

The Medi-Cal Squeeze on the State Budget



Although UC is officially unhappy about its allocation in the governor's January budget proposal, it is competing with other state priorities, notably Medi-Cal (the California name for the federal-state Medicaid program). Medi-Cal this fiscal year is costing more than originally estimated.

From an email by Jason Sisney of the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO):

Part of Successful State Policy to Expand Affordable Health Insurance. As [a] CalMatters explainer notes, the Medi-Cal expansions are among the key policies intended to dramatically reduce the state's uninsured rate. The article notes, "Close to 94% of Californians have health care insurance, an all-time high insured rate in 2022, according to an analysis by the California Health Care

Foundation. That 6% uninsured rate is a steep improvement from a peak of around 15% in 2013, according to the analysis."

Complex Medi-Cal Estimates Reflect Both Cost Overruns and Savings. Compared to last year's budget estimate, the January 10 local assistance projections... noted various higher and lower costs, including \$2.7 billion more costs for UIS enrollees (taking overall UIS [unsatisfactory immigration status] costs to over \$8 billion, according to administration data) and \$1 billion less in General Fund costs due to more MCO taxes. Medi-Cal is a huge, complicated program with complex cash flows and accruals, meaning that significant variances (some years overruns and some years savings) from budgeted amounts are common.

Loans Often Provided to Program to Ensure It Can Meet Cash Demands. ...On March 12, 2025, the Department of Finance formally announced that it had approved a \$3.44 billion General Fund loan for Medi-Cal's Medical Providers Interim Payment Fund to ensure continued, required payments to Medi-Cal providers. The General Fund loan is necessary "due to projected increased fiscal year 2024-25 Medi-Cal expenditures compared to the 2024 Budget Act," Finance said. Such loans are fairly common for California's Medi-Cal program..., but it is less common for the maximum loan amount to be authorized as is the case this year. (Last year's loan of \$1.75 billion, for example, was approved by Finance on May 7, 2024, primarily due the timing of MCO tax receipts.) In years with program cost overruns, such as this year, budget bill amendments are needed at some point to "true up" overall General Fund costs and, in effect, pay off temporary loans that support the program.

Projected State Deficits Ahead and Possible Federal Cuts. California faces significant General Fund deficits—now projected at over \$10 billion per year—in the coming years, as the administration noted in documents accompanying the Governor's January 10 budget proposal. Major state budget revenue sources—principally Proposition 30/55 taxes on high-income earners and cap-and-trade auction revenues—currently are scheduled to expire in 2030. Amidst these fiscal challenges, Medi-Cal is among the largest non-Proposition 98 (non-school) programs in the General Fund, and its costs—along with medical costs generally in the economy—have been rising notably, so keeping Medi-Cal costs sustainable will continue to be challenging. Federal government cuts or eligibility changes for Medicaid may increase state cost pressures further and reduce health care access across the country.

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Just a reminder that UC presidents often feel they have an understanding with the governor. But these understandings are generally fair weather deals.



The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- We Support AB-672, A First Step Towards Protecting PERB's Authority
- Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon
- Council of UC Faculty Associations Resolution Against ICE Raids and Deportations
- Faculty Association Town Hall on Funding Cuts – March 13 at 6pm
- Once Again, It's Time for California to Lead

Remaking the University

- Where There are No Universities (Guest Post) - 3/31/2025
- Finding "Dear Colleagues" within the Autocratic Academy (Guest Post) - 3/28/2025
- Liner Note 20: After Columbia's Betrayal - 3/22/2025

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From left to right: UC president Dynes and Gov. Schwarzenegger; UC president Yudof and Gov. Jerry Brown; UC president Napolitano and Gov. Jerry Brown.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [health care](#), [LAO](#), [State Budget](#), [UC budget crisis](#)

Behind Closed Doors



The Regents held one of their closed door meetings on March 7 in connection with the UC presidential search.

S1(X) Discussion Consideration of Matters Pertaining to Presidential Search

Source:
<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/mar25/searh-meeting-notice.pdf>.

Does that mean a candidate has been chosen with an announcement thereof coming this week at the regular open Regents meeting? Stay tuned.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [UC Regents](#)

Saturday, March 15, 2025

When the nickel and diming begins...

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the campus's financial challenges, the Central campus is closely examining and curtailing expenses, primarily focusing on travel and entertainment. This information is shared to prevent anyone from incurring non-reimbursable costs. Please keep the following guidelines in mind when planning events and travel activities:

For events and entertainment
Stay within the [meal per person limits](#).
Campus will also review the overall cost of the event for reasonability, which may avoid vendor charges such as room rental fees or other charges that are not food.
Avoid high-end establishments. If Campus determines that a venue is "high-end".

For meals during employee meetings
Per [UC policy](#), meals should be provided to employees on an infrequent basis, g



nickel dime

...you know there is a budget crisis. Obviously, we are not going to solve it out of lunch allowances. But messages such as the one above are symptoms, not cures.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [UC budget crisis](#), [UCLA](#)

Worth Watching

UCLA BURKLE CENTER PRESENTS



The 2024-25 Daniel Pearl Memorial Lecture

HAVIV RETTIG GUR
Journalist & Senior Analyst, The Times of Israel

Moderator
AKIKO FUJITA
Anchor/Reporter/Foreign Correspondent
ABC News, CNBC International, Yahoo Finance

THE WEBINAR WILL BEGIN SHORTLY

CO-SPONSORS:
THE DANIEL PEARL FOUNDATION
UCLA YOUNES AND JORAYA NAZARIAN CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES
HALLS AT UCLA

Definitely worth a watch, particularly if you are interested in journalism and current events in the Middle East. The actual lecture - after some introductions - begins around minute 11:

enrollment (251) UC-San Diego (241) community colleges (232) LAO (217) UC-Irvine (180) fund raising (161) UC-San Francisco (149) UC-Santa Barbara (149) UC-Santa Cruz (148) controller (139) faculty center (137) UC-Riverside (132) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (120) UC-Merced (107) faculty pay (107) Master Plan (102) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (60) Faculty Association at UCLA (59) parking (59) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (33) copyright (30) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

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Watch the Regents Meeting of March 20, 2025

New Subway Notice

► March (83)

► February (76)

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► 2015 (765)

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- Contributors
-  California Policy Issues
 -  Toby Higbie
 -  UCLA Faculty Association

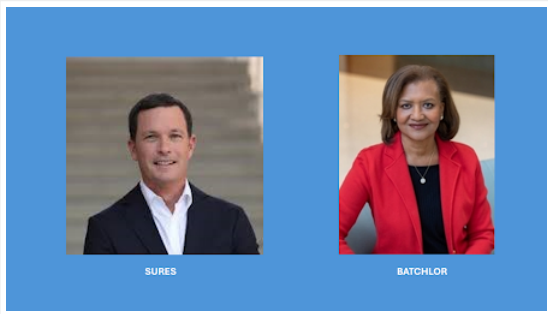


Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDw8FvXEp2U>. Alternative link:
<https://ia601406.us.archive.org/35/items/a-laugh-a-tear-a-mitzvah/The%202024-25%20Daniel%20Pearl%20Memorial%20Lecture%203-11-2025.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [miscellaneous](#), [UCLA](#)

Hassling the Regents



A second local UC Regent, Elaine Batchlor,* experienced a demonstration at their westside home yesterday. See below. There was a similar event at the home of Regent Sures** about six weeks ago. The neighborhood was shut down by LAPD bomb squad because of a suspicious package that apparently was left.*** It wouldn't surprise yours truly if we hear more about these events at the Regents meeting at UCLA next week.

From the [Westside Current](#):

WESTCHESTER — A pro-Palestinian demonstration unfolded early Friday morning in a residential Westchester neighborhood, with at least 30 people chanting "genocide" and handing out flyers, according to the Los Angeles Police Department. The group entered the neighborhood from Sepulveda Boulevard around 5:30 a.m., LAPD said. Protesters were seen on Dunfield Avenue as they distributed materials and continued chanting. A flyer found at the scene indicates the demonstration targeted Elaine Batchlor and the UC Regents, alleging that the University of California system invests \$1 billion in weapons manufacturing. The flyer demands that the "UC Regents DIVEST NOW."

Source: https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/early-morning-protest-in-westchester-neighborhood-prompts-police-response-streets-taped-off/article_20b0d292-00dc-11f0-86a8-4fb24693de8c.html.

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*<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/members-and-advisors/bios/elaine-batchlor.html>.

**<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/about/members-and-advisors/bios/jay-sures.html>.

***<https://www.audacy.com/knxnews/news/local/lapd-responds-to-westchester-home-for-suspicious-package>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UC Regents](#)

Friday, March 14, 2025

Scrambling for pennies - Part 2

We noted in a prior post that the governor was looking for extra pennies anywhere he could find them in making his January budget proposal, which means it will be difficult (but not impossible) for UC to get more than he proposed.* There is more in his penny hunting. From columnist George Skelton in the [LA Times](#):

One Newsom [budget] gimmick has drawn little attention amid Los Angeles-area wildfires and all the focus on chaos generated by President Trump. To help balance his budget, the governor wants to grab roughly \$300 million from the \$10-billion climate bond approved overwhelmingly by voters in November. OK, that's only a fraction — 3% — of the bond total. But it's the principle

of the money grab. It could set a pattern for this governor and his successors to continue dipping into the climate bond pot...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/politics/newsletter/2025-03-10/skelton-monday-politics-newsletter-politics-newsletter-template-do-not-use-make-a-copy-politics>.

And we continue to note that the phrase "to help balance his budget" is misleading. The budget proposal, which draws down reserves, is in deficit - not in balance - using the common English meaning of those words. If you have to draw down reserves, it means that you are spending more than you are taking in.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/03/scrambling-for-pennies.html>.



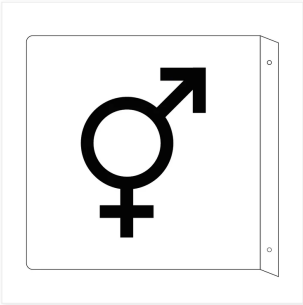
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:    

Labels: governor, politics, State Budget, UC budget crisis

The Davis Locker Divide

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):

UC Davis officials are responding to backlash from right-wing groups and concerned students after announcing plans to overhaul its locker room facilities, replacing traditional men's and women's sections with all-gender "universal" spaces. The \$5 million renovation, announced last month and slated for completion in September, has sparked considerable opposition from conservative activist groups and some students. The university cited student feedback as the motivation for the change, initially stating, "All campus recreation members can use our universal locker rooms, regardless of who they are or how they identify. These spaces are inclusive of members with disabilities and all gender identities."



...Despite the criticisms, UC Davis maintains that privacy is a top priority. Bill Kisiuk, a spokesperson for the university, emphasized that the new locker rooms will offer fully enclosed spaces for changing, showering and using restrooms.

...However, some critics argue that the plan may not be sufficient for the high traffic expected at the recreation center.

One Reddit user questioned, "Did the college ask its female students how they feel about universal bathrooms or locker rooms?" ...Safety concerns have also been raised, with one Reddit user asking, "What happens when a man or other slips into this 'private' room, and now has physical (sic) cover (a private room) to sexually assault a woman / other?" ...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/uc-davis-all-gender-locker-rooms-20204892.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments:    

Labels: diversity, UC-Davis

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